



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

popular type which has been published since Edersheim's is probably not an exaggeration, and a large usefulness can be predicted for it.

SAMUEL DICKEY

McCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHICAGO

In a recent volume, Professor W. B. Hill, of Vassar College, endeavors to give the student who takes up for the first time a study of Jesus' life the preliminary information necessary for an intelligent approach to the subject. To call the book an *Introduction to the Life of Christ*¹ is not quite exact. We might expect, in these days of historical interest, that one would feel the necessity of introducing himself to this subject by way of the history of the times in which Jesus' life was set, but of this there is no word in the present volume. Nor is there any essential place for it in the author's method, since he thinks "the Christ of history is best known through the Christ of personal experience."

What is presented is really an "Introduction" to the writings in which Jesus' name is mentioned. References to him in heathen and Jewish writings, items gleaned from the Apostolic Fathers, data from the apocryphal books and from the New Testament literature outside the Gospels are briefly catalogued. Chief attention is centered upon the four canonical gospels. Their collection into a canon, the manner of ascertaining their original text, the date of their composition, their literary relation to one another, their authors, their characteristics and trustworthiness as sources for the life of Christ are the principal topics discussed.

The writer seems to be quite as much interested in apologetics as in history. He would hardly allow the college student (for whom the book is prepared) to approach Jesus' personality from the standpoint and by the methods employed in the pursuit of other historical problems. He must take a very different attitude here. The Gospels are to be regarded as a unique product canonized by the "Spirit of God working in the churches." The stories about Jesus' miracles and his divine origin as related in the Gospels are never to be questioned. The author would have his readers understand at the beginning that the question of an early or a late date for the Gospels never would have arisen except out of an interest of skeptics to deny that miracles ever happen or to refuse to see anything divine in Jesus. Of those who think

¹ *Introduction to the Life of Christ*. By W. B. HILL. New York: Scribner, 1911. Pp. x+226. \$1.25.

there are inconsistencies between the picture of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels and in John, it is said: "Usually the most influential factor in shaping this opinion is the conclusion, reached in advance, that the main thesis of John—the divinity of Jesus—cannot be accepted." In speaking of modern critical attempts to reconstruct the life of Jesus, we are told that the biographer "usually follows pretty consistently his own prejudices for or against the miraculous and divine in deciding what to include and what to omit."

In short, modern critical study of Jesus' career is ruled out of court in favor of the apologetic and harmonistic method of former times. It is a serious question whether this method, particularly among the students in our colleges and universities, may not be attended by harmful results. It is at least certain that Jesus has proved much more attractive to many moderns when his historical personality has been divested of naïve and primitive ornamentation and he has been allowed to stand forth in his original simplicity and splendor.

SHIRLEY JACKSON CASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

